

Terrier Times

March 2007
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Washington School for the Deaf



Superintendent's News

Todd Reeves, Superintendent

Dear Parents:

Now that Spring has arrived we're looking forward to more activities to match the warmer and longer days. To match the new signs of Spring, staff at WSD continue to work hard to create a continually new and refreshing learning environment for your child. We hope you receive good information about what to expect in the coming months as you read through this newsletter. For my part, I'm happy to share with you the current climate and changing face of the legislature as it relates to WSD.

Capital Project Request: For the past three years, WSD has requested funds for a new multipurpose building that would serve as a combined Vocational Education center, Cafeteria, and Maintenance Support building. It appears the third time may be the charm, though we won't know until the end of the legislative session, which is scheduled to conclude April 22. To date, the Governor included funds for that building in her proposed budget, as did the House of Representatives. The Senate will propose their budget next week. If our request is included in their budget as well, then we stand an excellent chance of receiving funding for the building. Of course, nothing is certain until the Governor signs the final budget bill!

Operating Budget Request: Again, both the House and the Governor's budgets allocated our requested operating monies for the '07 - '09 biennium. And like the capital project, we must await the Senate's version to determine the likelihood of receiving sufficient funding for the upcoming biennium. We're very hopeful, and yet cautiously optimistic.

Institute for Public Policy: Many WSD parents, as well as parents of deaf children in the public schools, have provided feedback to the Institute for Public Policy (IPP) as they gather the perspectives of parents and other stakeholder groups concerning the important issues in deaf education in our state, both involving deaf and education in the public schools. They are expected to complete their report with recommendations in June. IPP was asked to submit an interim report to several legislative committees that reflected the feedback they had gathered so far. The interim report was very complimentary to WSD, listing us as one of the relatively few strengths in deaf education service delivery.

House Bill 2246: This bill passed the House and is being discussed in the Senate Education committee. If enacted, the WSD would retain its name and identity as a residential school, but the state agency would be renamed the Washington State Center for Childhood Deafness and Hearing Loss. WSD would, however, adopt an added focus as an applied research center to ensure that our students are exposed to the most up-to-date educational research to promote literacy skills for deaf and hard of hearing students using ASL. There are several other aspects of this bill that would connect the Center with improved services in the public schools as well. Of course, the bill has many hurdles to overcome before it becomes law, but WSD has so far received significant attention because of it.

There have been many good things to report this year regarding my interactions with legislators and others in Olympia. I know a great deal of the credit goes to parents who continually support us in so many different ways. Thank you for your commitment and concern!

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"Mike Hoyt - first place winner in the Rochester Institute of Technology's Digital Arts and Animation Competition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in the 3-D animation category."

WSD High School

Lori Dunsmore, Principal

First Place Winner!

WSD High School Senior, **Mike Hoyt** was selected as the first place winner in the Rochester Institute of Technology's Digital Arts and Animation Competition for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students in the 3-D animation category. The selection committee was impressed with his talent and obvious hard work in creating a clay animated movie.

Mike was awarded top honors and received a cash prize of \$250, an all-expenses paid trip to RIT with a parent to attend the awards ceremony on March 24, 2007. He also received free passes to the Deaf Rochester Film Festival, an event hosted by RIT that is receiving national recognition. Several of RIT/NTID students won prizes or mention at this festival last year.

Congratulations to Mike with the hope that he will continue to develop his creativity and skills in the arts.

Post High School Program

Larry Cole, Director Post High School Services

Questions?

You may have heard your student mention the new Post High School Program (PHSP) especially if your student is a Senior this year. I am sure several questions have come up in your mind so I am going to try and attempt to answer some of those questions.

Q: Who qualifies to be in the program and how do I apply?

A: You must be a high school graduate, be a resident of Washington, and complete an application which is reviewed for acceptance by a committee.

Q: How do I apply?

A: You can print off an application from our school web site www.wsd.wa.gov under Residential Services - PHSP or contact Larry Cole to have one mailed.

Q: What does the PHSP provide?

A: The PHSP provides Independent Living Skills training and work experience in a desired career field.

Q: How long does the program last?

A: Most programs are set up to be completed in 3 months.

Q: What happens after the program is completed?

A: PHSP staff will assist the student in finding a job in their home town and continue to be a resource as needed to the student and their supervisors.

Larry L. Cole
Director of Post High School Services
360-696-6525 Ext. 4370
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larry.cole@wsd.wa.gov



Sign Up Today!
Spring ASL Classes

April 10-June 14, 2007

For More Information contact Kelly Perez @ 360-696-6525x4362 V/TTY or
email nikki.ekle@wsd.wa.gov

Independent Living Skills News

Pat Almer, ILS Coordinator

On February 14, the ILS girls cooked a special Valentines dinner for all the cottages. On March 14, the ILS boys cooked a St. Patrick's dinner for all the cottages. Everyone said both meals were delicious. A dance was held after both dinners. The students are learning how to shop for large groups on a limited budget. This is a challenge. They are also learning how to fix new and exciting recipes. When planning a meal, students always plan around the important food groups. Ask your child what their group cooked.



During the months of January, February and March the ILS students are working on getting their Washington State Food & Beverage Workers Card. This information is valuable to anyone. It is learning about basic food safety. These principles apply not only to the food industry but also in the home environment. The information teaches the students how to safely store, prepare and serve food at work and at home. According to the U.S. Centers for Disease Control it is estimated that about 76 million Americans get sick and up to 5,000 people die each year from unsafe food. Following food safety practices can help prevent the most common causes of foodborne illness.

When the students are ready we will take them in small groups to the Clark County Health Department. The students must pay a fee of \$10.00. They will take a test with an interpreter. Once a student passes the test they receive a card that is good for two years. ILS students can then seek employment in any Washington food service industry that prepares or serves food.

Some of our ILS students already have their Washington State Food & Beverage Workers Card. These students are working on "Planning a Vacation".

This group is learning a variety of things.

- How to identify financial considerations involved in planning a vacation.
- List time considerations involved in planning a vacation.
- List possible vacation activities.
- Locate resources available for help with making vacation plans.
- Construct a proposed vacation plan, including the cost, time, transportation, facilities, and activities.

When the students have completed this project they will share with the other groups what they have learned.



On April 16 the ILS students will visit Chestnut Lane, an Assisted Living Community for the Deaf. Our last visit in December was enjoyed by all. It was decided that ILS should visit again. Our student will play Bingo with the residents. We will be bringing fun prizes for the winners.

The ILS elective class scheduled for Tuesdays and Thursdays has expanded to include any High School student who is interested. The emphasis is on banking skills. The students are learning how to deposit checks, write checks, balance their check books and work on their check registers. One day we visited IQ credit union. The students learned many things.

An elective starting in April will focus on jobs in the community. The students in this group will go out weekly and see people at their jobs. The purpose of this elective is to give students ideas of jobs they might like to do in the future.



*We have two new ILS students of the month.
The theme for February was "Most Helpful".
The two students who received this award*



Caleb Bear



Nhan Tran

The ILS team appreciates all the help these two students have given to both staff and students.

Congratulations to you both!

DATES TO REMEMBER!

SPRING BREAK **APRIL 2-6, 2007**
MEMORIAL DAY **MAY 28** (TRAVEL DAY)
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION **JUNE 7**
LAST DAY OF SCHOOL **JUNE 15**

Electives Spotlight!

Jim Divine, Recreation Director

After-School Elective Activities Program:

We were fortunate this after-school elective session to have Lam Hoac volunteer to teach a kite flying class here at WSD. Lam is a grand master champion in North America which is the highest award in kite making and competition. Lam designs, manufactures, builds and flies kites in competitions and in performances. He is one of the top ten flyers in the world and travels extensively. Lam is a Canadian citizen from Toronto and has been working with our students teaching them to fly kites indoors. Five of our students are learning the techniques from Lam and they are in the gym every Wednesday. The students are enthusiastic and becoming very skilled in indoor kite flying. Theresa Norelius, owner of the "Kite Shop" which is located just a couple of blocks from WSD, introduced Lam to our students and staff. Theresa specializes in performance kites for the serious kite flyer and supports individual and team performances. Theresa supports a team in Seattle and other flyers helping them out with travel, accommodations, and registration expenses. On March 30, 31, and April 1, in Lincoln City, OR at Taft High School, there will be an indoor show involving kite demonstrations and competitions. This is in connection with the Northwest Sport Kite League. We would like to thank Lam for his involvement with our school and students. To learn more about Lam, go to his website: www.skysportdesign.com. We are gearing up for more kite flying with Lam at WSD in the coming spring elective session which starts on April 17. Also, we are planning a demonstration in the gym on Thursday, April 12 for all to come and see after school.

We were also fortunate to have this elective session a volunteer instructor in East Indian dance, Tulsee Doshi. Tulsee, a very skilled dancer, who has performed at the Portland Center for the Performing Arts. Heena Doshi, Tulsee's mother, transports her to class and oversees the instruction. Our WSD students have enjoyed learning the steps and hand movements. The Indian classical dance form of Bharatanatyam has very codified hand and facial gestures and is a visual art. The interaction between Tulsee and our students has been fantastic! Tulsee tells cultural stories to the students and then expresses them in dance movements. **We are planning a performance by Tulsee and our students on Thursday, April 12th in the gym and everyone is invited.** We are looking forward to Tulsee continuing to instruct our students in the spring after-school electives. She has also been learning ASL at Portland Community College.



"The students are enthusiastic and becoming very skilled in indoor kite flying."



"In the performance on April 12, the children will perform the Ganesha piece with the dance steps."

Red Cross Babysitter's Training

Robin Castrey, Student Life Counselor



"The class extensively covered how to handle various babysitting emergencies."



In the fall of 2006, we were fortunate to have Beth Paschall, Youth Services Director from the Vancouver Chapter of the American Red Cross teach a Babysitting class. Fourteen of our middle and high school students signed up for the class. Elizabeth Morgan was our interpreter. SLC's Joanne Coelho and Robin Castrey were pleased with the enthusiastic participation from each of our students. Everyone received a reference manual, viewed related videos, and practiced CPR on small baby and child mannequins. Most of the students earned their CPR Certification.

Other topics covered were: home safety, personal safety, basic first aid, resume writing and job interviews. The class extensively covered how to handle various babysitting emergencies. The students enjoyed the many babysitting stories that were shared.

Some of the SLCs are interested in becoming instructors for this class. We hope to make that happen next school year.





“The Wizard
of Oz”



Literacy Faire

Nikki Ekle, ASL Specialist

This camp is for WSD students and Deaf/Hard of Hearing students from around the state and high school students learning ASL can also attend. The camp focuses on reading, writing, and other activities related to literacy. This year's topic is “The Wizard of Oz” and the camp will culminate with a performance by campers! ASL high school students will be taught how to “shadow interpret” for Deaf/Hard of Hearing actors/actresses during the performance. There will be a BBQ lunch and families will receive a campus tour before the performance.

Camp Dates: July 5 - 14, 2007
(Tuesday night to Saturday afternoon)
Performance and BBQ: July 14th
(Afternoon)

Registration forms will be sent home soon. You can also get registration information from the WSD website:
www.wsd.wa.gov

Registration Deadline: June 1, 2007

Hope to see you at camp!!

Nurse's Corner

Becky Munson, School Nurse



Get Moving--TOGETHER!

The media have focused on childhood obesity recently, but no one has come up with a clear solution. Today's children have less opportunity and access to physical activity. PE classes aren't always available at school and kids spend more time in front of computer and television screens at home. The obesity rate for adults is rising fast as well. Doctors and researchers agree—we ALL need to GET MOVING!

In my experience, children learn what they see more than what you tell them to do—and they learn it faster if you do it with them! Parents who enjoy reading and read to their children, usually have children who enjoy reading too. The same is usually true with activity—parents who are physically active with their children, have more active children.

You don't have to work out at the gym, sweat to a DVD in your living room, or run miles through your neighborhood. While these are good habits for adults, it's not something children need or usually would enjoy, especially young children. Activity can be organized through the neighborhood recreation center such as dance or martial arts classes, or can be as spontaneous as a bike ride.

Get Moving ideas:

- Replace the word “exercise” with the word “activity” or “FUN!”
- Be on the lookout for fun! Walking laps around your neighborhood will give you exercise, but hiking through a park is a lot more fun!
- Take up a hobby the whole family can enjoy such as hiking—it's FREE and there are miles of walking/hiking trails all over the country!
- Let family members take turns choosing a fun activity!
- Try new activities like the rock climbing wall at the rec center, swimming at the wave pool, or kite flying on the beach.
- Check online and in local parent magazines for more ideas!
- Take photos of your family activities and make a scrapbook!

Remember the important thing is, Get Moving—TOGETHER!

Contact your primary care provider before starting any new or vigorous physical activity.

Wishing you a healthier, more active, and more FUN life!



Athletics

Ron Spratlen, Athletic Director

WSD and Hudson's Bay have combined our track teams. We are very excited to reestablish the Track program and have a good turnout from our student/athletes. Our first Track meet is Wednesday, March 21st at Camas High School.

Come support the team!



Track and Field Schedule

3/22	Camas	Away	3:30
3/26	Skyview	Away	3:30
4/10	Fort Vancouver	Home	3:30
4/17	Kelso	Home	3:30
4/20	Twilight @ Columbia River	Away	TBA
4/24	Columbia River	Away	3:30
5/4	Districts @ Kelso HS	Away	TBA

Open Letter to WSD Parents

Dear Parents and Guardians:

With advances in technology the advent of sidekick and blackberry devices and cell based wireless connection for laptop computers, communication access for deaf and hard of hearing users has advanced greatly. While these new wireless devices allow people to stay in touch with family and friends as well as access the internet via wireless connection they present new challenges to schools and parents who strive to keep children safe. With this new technology a new type of harassment and bullying has been born. "Cyber-bullying" is now something we see in the news and with people concerned with protecting the innocent.

In recent months there have been several situations where students have been using this technology inappropriately. There have been several incidents of inappropriate photos taken and emailed and/or posted on "My Space" as well as very negative messaging that is negatively impacting children. This activity has been done outside school time, however is impacting students both at home and at school.

The school network is closely monitored and rigorous filters and firewall protections are in place to ensure safety and confidentiality. Accessing the internet and sending messages over the school network is designed to provide maximum protection for students.

We are asking parents to join staff at WSD to closely monitor your child's use of cyber communication via home or laptop computer or wireless device. We are developing new safety curriculum focusing on internet safety and the dangers of electronic communication. Our first line of defense is to establish a strong partnership with parents and other adults who protect our children.

In the coming weeks we will be drafting and presenting a new policy to the Board of Trustees. The policy would limit use of wireless communication and internet access while on campus or during transportation. The goal is maintaining student safety at all times. This information will be posted on our website as it becomes available. We welcome your comments or suggestions as we develop this new policy.

Please join us in protecting our children from bullying and internet dangers.

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